



City of New Bedford
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City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Mosquito Spraying in the City of New Bedford

Proactive Ground-Spraying for mosquitoes to be conducted in New Bedford this evening,
and early tomorrow morning

New Bedford, Massachusetts- The New Bedford Health Department has announced that a ground-spraying program for mosquitoes in several areas of New Bedford experiencing an increase in mosquito populations will be conducted this evening, Thursday, August 2, 2007 from 8:30 PM to approximately 11:00 PM. The area to be sprayed this evening is South of RT 195, East of RT 140, North of RT 6, West of Cottage Street and in the Buttonwood Park. An additional round of ground-spraying will occur in the North End of the city on Friday, August 3, 2007 between 2:30AM and 5:00AM. The area to be sprayed tomorrow in the early morning is South of Wood Street, East of Church Street, North of Coggeshall Street and West of Belleville Avenue. The Bristol County Mosquito Control Program will use several trucks to spray “Anvil,” a pesticide commonly used to reduce elevated mosquito populations.

While no mosquitoes found in New Bedford this year have tested positive for arboviruses, such as West Nile virus, or Eastern Equine Encephalitis, mosquitoes collected in Berkley, Massachusetts have tested positive for West Nile virus. In 2006, there were three human cases of WNV, with no fatalities. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe disease. WNV is usually transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito.

While no mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) in New Bedford, the City is taking a preventative step with conducting mosquito-spraying program. The city hopes to reduce the local mosquito population before a sample is returned positive for infection.

Appropriate precautions to reduce exposure to insecticide during spraying include:

- People with asthma or other respiratory conditions may wish to stay indoors to reduce possibility of aggravating these conditions.
- In the immediate spray zone, keep windows closed and air conditioners and fans off.
- Rinse any homegrown fruits or vegetables with water as is typically done before eating.
- Keep pets indoors during spraying to minimize their risk of exposure.

Appropriate precautions to avoid exposure to mosquito bites include:

- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours** – The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Reduce outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. Otherwise, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing.
- **Clothing Can Help** reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- **Apply Insect Repellent** when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), or oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age.
- **Drain Standing Water** – Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- **Install or Repair Screens** – Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

For more information about mosquito-borne diseases found in Massachusetts, go to the following MDPH website: www.mass.gov/dph/wnv/wnv1.htm or call at 1-866-627-7968. More information about the local mosquito control program is also available by calling the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project at 1-508-823-525.

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